

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 L-01 EA-06 NEA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 13533

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, CAN, UK

SUBJ: EC-CANADA AGREEMENT

REF: (A) LONDON 12787; (B) EC BRUSSELS 8054

1. MARSDEN (EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT, FCO)
HAS GIVEN US SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE EC
COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION ON OCTOBER 15 OF EC-CANADA
RELATIONS (REF B).

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2. THE COMMISSION, ACCORDING TO MARSDEN, SUGGESTED THREE OPTIONS TO THE COUNCIL (A) A DECISION TO NEGOTIATE A NON-PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA WHICH, IN EFFECT, WOULD BE A REITERATION OF THE GATT; (B) A DECISION TO NEGOTIATE A TRADE AGREEMENT THAT ALSO INCLUDED SOME (UNSPECIFIED) FORM OF BILATERAL COOPERATION; (C) A DECISION NOT TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA AT THIS TIME.

3. THE COUNCIL CHOSE NONE OF THESE ALTERNATIVES AND, AT FRENCH INSISTENCE, DECIDED TO LEAVE THE MATTER OPEN. ACCORDING TO MARSDEN, THE FRENCH POSITION AT THE COUNCIL CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES, AS THE FRENCH HAD, AT THE PERMREP LEVEL, SEEMED MORE WILLING TO ENVISAGE EC-CANADA NEGOTIATIONS.

4. DURING THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION, THE UK'S POSITION WAS THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD: (A) TELL THE CANADIANS THAT IT IS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO FORMAL TALKS WITH A VIEW TO ARRIVING AT SOME SORT OF AGREEMENT; AND (B) MAKE SURE THAT THIS AGREEMENT IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE GATT OR WITH THE NECESSARY MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, MARSDEN SAID THAT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE UK TRIED TO BLOCK EC-CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. (AN ARTICLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE OF OCTOBER 15, FOR EXAMPLE, BEGAN: "BRITAIN, TAKING ITS CUE FROM THE UNITED STATES, IS OBSTRUCTING ATTEMPTS BY CANADA TO IMPROVE ITS TRADING RELATIONS WITH THE EEC.")

5. MARSDEN SAID THAT THE UK IS TRYING TO PERSUADE THE COMMUNITY TO AVOID USING THE PHRASE "CONTRACTUAL LINK" IN CONNECTION WITH EC-CANADA RELATIONS, AS IT SOUNDS TOO FORMAL AND RIGID. THE UK IS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMMUNITY CAN FIND SOME WAY TO SATISFY CANADA'S DESIRE FOR A VISIBLE STEP FORWARD IN EC-CANADIAN RELATIONS WITHOUT UNDERMINING MULTILATERALISM.

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6. MARSDEN EXPECTS THAT THE CANADIANS WILL NOT BE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE OCTOBER 15 COUNCIL. THE UK CONSIDERS THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE CANADIANS TO MAKE THE NEXT MOVE - PERHAPS BY CLARIFYING WHAT SORT OF AGREEMENT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE.

ANNENBERG

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